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membrane or carapace, formed of two scales soldered on the median line. Externally the animal resembles a root, or sausage-barnacle. Within this singular membrane is situated the body of the crustacean, which is about a centimeter in length, the test or carapace being from two to four centimeters long. Laura is referred by the author to a new sub-order of barnacles which stands between the Rhizocephala and the true barnacles, though the Nauplius is very different from that of Cirripides, having no carapace.

THE MUNGOOSE IN THE WEST INDIES.¹—In all the West Indian Islands the black and brown rats are cause of great loss to the sugar-planters, spite of rat-catchers, with the bow-string traps, and their aids in the shape of dogs and poison. Jamaica has also become possessed of the formidable and destructive *Mus saccharivorus*, an animal with a body ten inches long. To combat these pests, various animals were introduced, but the ferret succumbed before the attacks of the chigo; the Cuban ant (*Formica omnivora*), though it maintained itself and remains one of the planter's best friends, destroying the young of the rapacious rodents, also attacks kittens, puppies and calves, and the agua toad, devours young ducks, depopulates bee-hives and drives away sleep by its croaking, but does not eat rats. In 1872, nine mungoooses were brought direct from India and turned loose. In ten years these have so multiplied that they are abundant all over the island, and are now found even at elevations of 5000 feet. Cuba, Porto Rico, Barbadoes and Santa Cruz have also been supplied with these animals, and their first patron, Mr. Espent, has undertaken to ship some to Australia and New Zealand to combat the rabbit pests. As a rat-catcher this animal has proved itself worthy of its reputation, as it has reduced the expenses of rat-catching fully 90 per cent., and has reduced the quantity of rat-eaten canes to one fourth or one-fifth of what it was previously, representing an annual saving to the island of nearly £45,000. Notwithstanding this benefit, the short history of the mungoose upon the island goes to prove that the introduction of a new species into a district should not be done rashly. The mungoose is now too common, and is making itself felt in other ways beside rat-catching. It to some extent preys upon eggs and chickens wherever dogs are not kept, and quail, wild guinea-fowl, game-birds generally, as well as sea and water-fowl, are rapidly diminishing before its attacks, as are also the yellow snakes, themselves good rat-catchers (*Chilabothrus inornatus*), and the ground lizard *Amiva dorsalis*). As the mungoose cannot climb a tree, the rats, especially the black species, take refuge in cocoa-nut plantations, and prove more destructive than formerly, but, on the other hand, the coffee and cocoa plantations profit greatly by its introduction.

¹ *The Mongoose on Sugar Estates in the West Indies.* By D. MORRIS.